

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-09 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /073 W

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R 110746Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9516

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SU

SUBJECT: GOS RETRACTS REPORTED OFFER OF SETTLEMENT OF
PALESTINIANS AND PLO INVESTMENTS IN SUDAN

BEGIN SUMMARY: GOS HAS HASTILY ISSUED STATEMENT AND PUBLISHED ARAFAT-NIMEIRI LETTER TO CORRECT EARLIER PRESS REPORTS OF (A) PLANNED "SETTLEMENT" OF PALESTINIANS IN SUDAN PENDING LIBERATION OF PALESTINE AND (B) PLO READINESS TO INVEST FUNDS IN SUDAN. UNCLEAR WHETHER CORRECTION STIMULATED BY PLO PROTEST OR MERELY NECESSITATED BY MEDIA SNAFU, BUT REFERENCE TO "SETTLEMENT" OF PALESTINIANS SURELY TOUCHED RAW NERVE. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL SUDANESE MEDIA REPORTED MAR. 9 ON PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND LOCAL PLO REP ABU AL-KHEIR AND LATTER'S DELIVERY OF WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM YASSER ARAFAT. MESSAGE SAID TO ADDRESS "IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH NIMEIRI ON SETTLEMENT OF NUMBER OF PALESTINIANS IN SUDAN PENDING LIBERATION OF ALL PALESTINE." MEDIA ALSO REPORTED THAT ABU AL-KHEIR TOLD NIMEIRI OF "PLO'S READINESS TO INVEST SOME FUNDS IN SUDAN FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT OF PALESTINIANS, SUDANESE AND ARABS WHO FINANCED PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT."

2. MEDIA MAR. 10 CARRIED "CLARIFYING" STATEMENT FROM
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SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY DENYING THAT ARAFAT

MESSAGE SPOKE OF "SETTLEMENT" OR THAT NIMEIRI AND PLO REP
HAD DISCUSSED INVESTMENT. STATEMENT EXPLAINED CONFUSION
ENSUED FROM FACT NIMEIRI HAD SET ASIDE PIECE OF LAND
FOR "CHILDREN OF MARTYRS OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION."
EXPLANATION ACCOMPANIED BY PUBLISHED TEXT OF ARAFAT LETTER
THAT MAKES NO MENTION OF "SETTLEMENT" AND THANKS NIMEIRI
FOR FARM OFFERED TO CHILDREN OF MARTYRS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA FULLY CAPABLE
OF ERROR, FACT THAT TV, RADIO AND ALL PAPERS MAR. 9 CARRIED
IDENTICAL REPORTS INDICATES GOS RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING OUT
NEWS CONTAINING PROHIBITED REFERENCE TO "SETTLEMENT" OF
PALESTINIANS. WHETHER GOS ITSELF, UNSCHOOLED IN FINER POINTS
OF MIDDLE EAST REVOLUTIONARY LEXICON, DISCOVERED OWN SIN OR
REQUIRED PLO PROMPTING IS UNCLEAR, BUT TRANSGRESSION NOT
LIKELY TO BE REPEATED SOON.
BREWER

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